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~~SECRET~~STATUS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK3. GENERAL STATUS

There has been a noticeable decrease in the number of unidentified aerial object reports submitted to this Project in the period covered by this Status Report (December 1952, January and February 1953) when compared with the number submitted in the period covered by Status Report No. 9 (June, July, August, September, October and November 1952). Presently from two to three reports are received daily as compared to eight reports received daily during the period covered by the previous report.

Because of a marked decrease in newspaper publicity, fewer reports have been received from civilians with the result that military sightings now account for at least 60 percent of all unidentified object reports. In spite of the dropping of the subject by the national press, it is significant to note that a steady influx of three reports daily come in to Project Blue Book from persons who sincerely believe they saw an unusual phenomenon in the sky and this is one of the main reasons why the Air Force is still continuing and taking an interest in the Project.

Three incidents which occurred in January serve to illustrate the direct effect of publicity on the number and quality of REPORTS received by the Project. During the period 21 January to 27 January, a sighting from Northern Japan near Kamakura-held territory, a television program involving "Flying saucers", and a sighting of an unidentified aerial object by a jet pilot on the West Coast all received considerable newspaper publicity which resulted in a noticeable increase in reports at the Air Technical Intelligence Center. This is illustrated by the graph in Section I of this Status Report.

Prior to the incidents mentioned above, the quality of flying object reports continued to improve in quality and completeness even to the extent that base intelligence personnel were analyzing reports at the locale of sighting, something which Project Blue Book encourages. There was a noticeable increase in the percentage of radar sightings made during this time. However, many reports submitted as a result of the flurry of late January sightings were so incomplete that many of them had to be categorized as "insufficient data". The probable reason for this is that the base intelligence officer responsible for preparing an unidentified aerial object report has least interest in the subject due to the heavy load of low grade reports which he had to extend last season.

During December, January, and February, Project Blue Book personnel spent a good portion of their time briefing such interested agencies as the Air Defense Command, the 1432nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron, and the Sandia Corporation with the dual purpose of (1) general education about Project Blue Book, and (2) bettering the quality of flying object reports themselves in addition to increasing channels for obtaining supporting information necessary for analysis of a REPORT.

All reports received were screened and classified as soon as possible after being received. A percentage breakdown as to the evaluations is given below, along with a further breakdown of sightings.

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